



## Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: AL/MS/FL

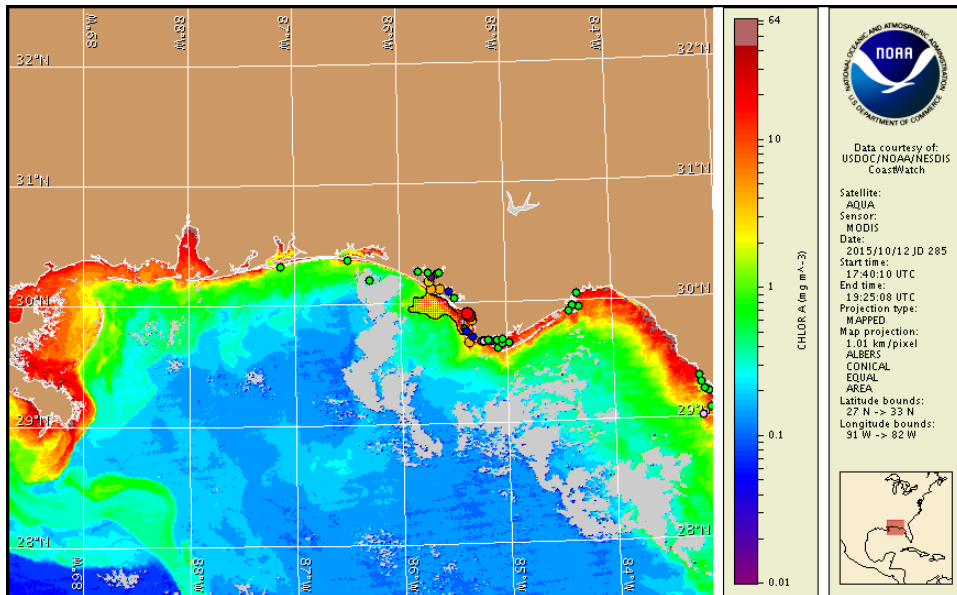
Tuesday, 13 October 2015

NOAA National Ocean Service

NOAA Satellite and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: Thursday, October 8, 2015



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible *K. brevis* HAB areas shown by red polygon(s), when applicable. Points represent cell concentration sampling data from October 3 to 12: red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue (very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of sample providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HAB-OFS bulletin guide:

[http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/habfs\\_bulletin\\_guide.pdf](http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf)

Detailed sample information for Florida can be obtained through FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute at:

<http://myfwc.com/redtidestatus>

To see previous bulletins and forecasts for other Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin regions, visit at: <http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/bulletins.html>

## Conditions Report

Not present to high concentrations of *Karenia brevis* (commonly known as Florida red tide) are present along- and offshore portions of northwest Florida from Escambia to Taylor counties. *K. brevis* concentrations are patchy in nature and levels of respiratory irritation will vary locally based upon nearby bloom concentrations, ocean currents, and wind speed and direction. The highest level of potential respiratory irritation forecast for along-shore northwest Florida Tuesday, October 13 to Thursday, October 15 is listed below:

**County Region: Forecast (Duration)**

**Bay County: Moderate (Tu-W), Low (Th)**

**Bay County, bay regions: Moderate (Tu-Th)**

**Gulf County: High (Tu-W), Low (Th)**

**Gulf County, west bay regions-St. Joseph Bay area: Moderate (Tu-Th)**

**Franklin County, bay regions: Very Low (Tu-Th)**

**All Other NWFL County Regions: None expected (Tu-Th)**

**SWFL County Regions: Visit <http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/#swfl>**

Check [http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/beach\\_conditions.html](http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/beach_conditions.html) for recent, local observations. Health information, from the Florida Department of Health and other agencies, is available at [http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/hab\\_health\\_info.html](http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/hab_health_info.html). Reports of dead fish have been received from alongshore Bay and Gulf counties this week.

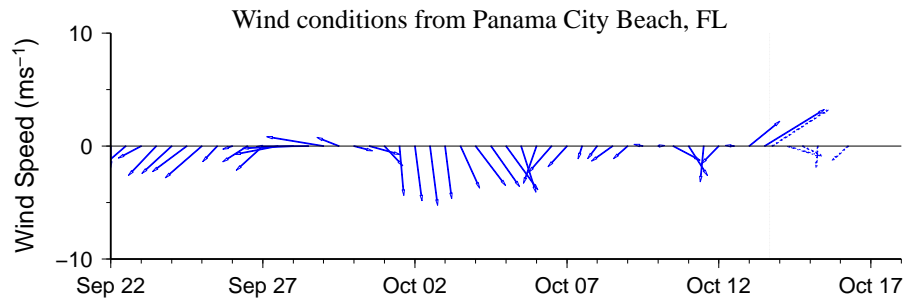
## Analysis

Samples collected last week from along- and offshore northwest Florida from Bay to Franklin counties indicated not present to 'high' concentrations of *Karenia brevis*, with the highest concentrations reported from alongshore Gulf County (FWRI; 10/5-10/8). All other samples collected along- and offshore Escambia, Okaloosa, Walton, and Wakulla counties indicated that *K. brevis* is not present (FWRI; 10/5-10/8). Detailed sample information and a summary of impacts can be obtained through FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute at: <http://myfwc.com/redtidestatus>. A fish kill has been reported from Port St. Joe in Gulf County (FWRI; 10/12); fish kills also continue to be reported from Mexico Beach in Bay County (FWRI; 10/9).

In recent ensemble imagery (MODIS Aqua, 10/12), a feature of elevated to very high chlorophyll (2 to >20 µg/L) with the optical characteristics of *K. brevis* is visible along-shore northwest Florida from Walton to Franklin counties, extending up to 17 miles offshore Gulf County.

Variable winds forecast alongshore northwest Florida today through Thursday will minimize transport of *K. brevis* concentrations. North to west winds forecast today through Wednesday may promote intensification of *K. brevis* concentrations at the coast.

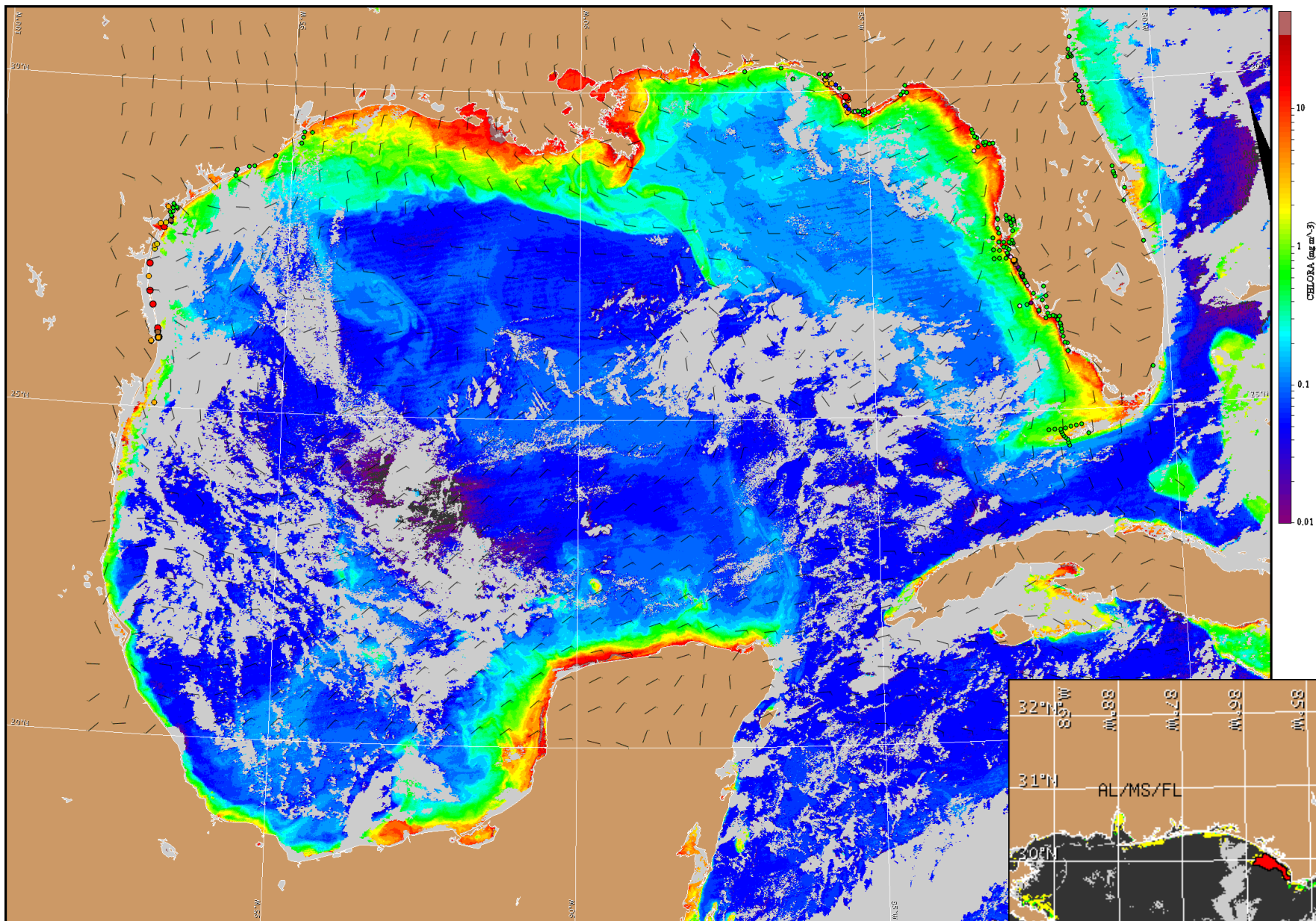
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Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts. Wind observation and forecast data provided by NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS).

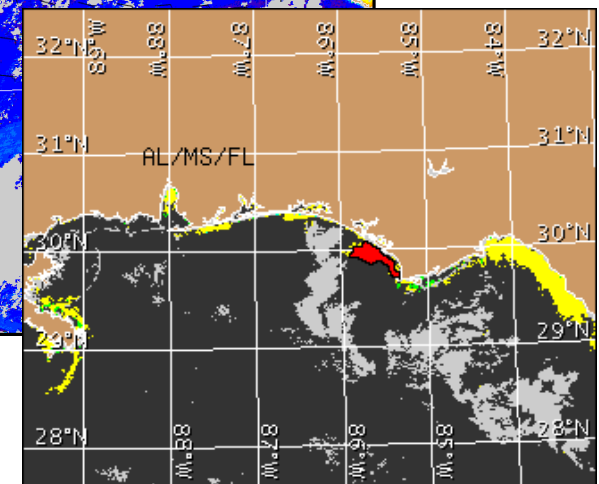
## Wind Analysis

**Escambia to Taylor counties:** West winds (10-15kn, 5-8m/s) today. North winds (10kn, 5m/s) Wednesday. Northwest winds (10kn) Wednesday night shifting northeast (10-20kn, 5-10m/s) Wednesday night through Thursday.



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for October 14, 2015 06Z with points representing cell concentration sampling data from October 3 to 12: red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue (very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of sample providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HAB-OFS bulletin guide:

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Verified and suspected HAB areas shown in red. Other areas with *K. brevis* optical characteristics shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).